

faileas

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Newsletter • Iris 57 • An Dùbhlachd 2015 • December 2015



MARSAILI AGUS A' BHLEIDEAG AIRGID



'S e seo an t-ochdamh bliadhna a tha sgioba Fèisean nan Gàidheal air dealbh-chluich Nollaige a chur air dòigh do chlann bun-sgoile air feadh na dùthcha.

Bha an taisbeanadh sònraichte seo – Marsaili agus a' Bhleideag Airgid - air an àrd-ùrlar airson cola-deug is shiubhal na cleasaichean còrr is 1,200 mìle, a' tadhal air bailtean, beag is mòr, air feadh na dùthcha. Ged nach eil e comasach do dh'Fhèisean nan Gàidheal am panto a thoirt dha na sgoiltean is ionadan Gàidhlig gu lèir san dùthaich gach bliadhna, tha e na amas dhan bhuidhinn slighe na cuairt atharrachadh bho bhliadhna gu bliadhna gu na sgoiltean gu lèir a fhrithealadh.

Ruith a' chuairt eadar 30mh Samhain agus 11mh Dùbhlachd, a' tadhal air 17 sgoiltean le 26 eile a' cruinneachadh sna sgoiltean as fhaisge orra airson an taisbeanadh fhaicinn còmhla. Tha na ceithir cleasaichean – Ellen NicDhòmhnaill, Catriona NicNeacail, Iain Beggs is an t-Oifigeair Dràma againn, Aonghas MacLeòid - air clù à chosnadh dhaibh pèin thar nam bliadhnaichean, cuid aca le pàirtean ann am Bannan, dràma Gàidhlig BBC Alba. Rinn Laura Cowie an t-aodach sònraichte dhaibh is bha Daibhidh Walker gan stiùradh.

This is the eighth successive year that Fèisean nan Gàidheal has put together a winter show for children in Gaelic-medium education.

Over the first two weeks of December, the show travelled over 1,200 miles, visiting cities, towns and villages throughout the country. Unfortunately it is not possible to visit all GM units in any one year but, as the Panto is an annual event, Fèisean nan Gàidheal hopes to visit all Gaelic units and schools within a few years.

This year the hour-long show was staged in 17 different schools/venues with a further 26 being invited to attend neighbouring schools to enjoy the show together. The cast of 4 are well-experienced actors and singers, some enjoying celebrity through the current Gaelic soap opera, Bannan. Director of this year's panto was Daibhidh Walker and costume design was by Laura Cowie.



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TUTOR TRAINING 2016

Thèid trèanadh luchd-teagaisg Fèisean nan Gàidheal a chumail Disathairne 20mh Gearran 2016 ann an Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Tron chùrsa gheibhear trèanadh ann an dìon cloinne, sgilean teagaisg, a bhith ag ullachadh airson Fèis agus a' dèiligeadh ri clann aig diofar ìrean.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's tutor training will be held on Saturday 20th February 2016 in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, starting at 9.30am and coming to an end with a cèilidh in the evening.

Training will be offered in child protection, teaching skills, preparing for a Fèis and managing a class of children at different levels. There will also be information about Arts Awards, which tutors can work towards whilst teaching at a Fèis.

Accommodation and dinner will be available for those who require it on Friday 19th February and will also be available on Saturday night.

For more information, please get in touch with Shona Macmillan on shona@feisean.org or 01851 704 573.

BLIADHNA SHOIRBHEACHAIL AIG FÈIS NA H-APAINNE



Tha Fèis ùr na h-Apaine a' comharrachadh a' chiad cheann bliadhna aca. Thairis air a' bhliadhna a dh'fhalbh tha an Fhèis air a dhol bho neart gu neart a' brosnachadh Gàidhlig is ceòl traidiseanta sa choimhearsnachd.

Tha an Fhèis seo gu mòr aig cridhe na coimhearsnachd a-nise le muinntir an àite a' cruinneachadh gach mìos airson pàirt a ghabhail sna tachartasan. Tha rudan ann airson a h-uile duine, Fèis na Bige, clasaichean ciùil, cofaidh is craic agus tòrr eile! Mar is trice bidh timcheall air 50 neach ga frithleachadh agus tha Bun-sgoil Srath na h-Apaine làn de cheòl is de Ghàidhlig a h-uile mìos.

On a thoisich an Fhèis anns an Apainn tha e soilleir gu bheil i air buaidh nach beag a thoir air muinntir an àite le tòrr dhaoine a' gabhail pàirt ann an clasaichean ciùil san ùine aca fhèin. A bharrachd air seo tha buidheann mòr de mhuinntir na h-Apaine airson a dhol gu Fèis Latharna anns an Òban anns a' Ghiblean. Tha seo a' ciallachadh gum faigh na com-pàirtichean blasad de dh'Fhèis nas motha agus bidh iad a' coinneachadh ri daoine eile san sgìre a tha dèidheil air na h-Ealain Ghàidhlig.

Tha Fèis na h-Apaine a-nise a' coimhead air adhart ris an dàrna bliadhna agus ma chumas iad a' dol mar a tha iad, bidh bliadhna eile air leth aca.

Over the past year Fèis na h-Apaine went from an idea to a well-established monthly event which encourages Gaelic and traditional music within the community.

The Fèis is very much at the heart of the community with locals coming every month to take part in the activities. There is a Fèis Bheag for the wee ones, lots of music classes and games' sessions for the Fèis participants, as well as a coffee and craic session where people can have a blether and brush up on their Gaelic. For more information see Facebook/Fèis na h-Apaine

NEW RESIDENTIAL FÈIS IN SUTHERLAND



Aig deireadh an Dàmhair rinn 15 deugair air Ostail Òigridh Thunga airson dà latha de cheòl is seinn còmhla ri buill às an t-sàr chòmhlain Dàimh. A bharrachd air sàr-oideachadh ann am fidheall, a' phìob, bogsa-ciùil, giotàr, mandolin agus air seinn Gàidhlig bha bùthan-obrach a' dol ann an obair-còmhlain agus seisean ciùil.

Fèis air an Oir are celebrating the success of their first ever residential event in Mackay Country. Fifteen young musicians and singers flocked to Tongue Youth Hostel at the end of October for a weekend of music and singing masterclasses led by super-group Dàimh. As well as expert tuition in fiddle, pipes, accordion, guitar, mandolin and Gaelic song, the young musicians also took part in groupwork workshops and an evening music session in the village of Tongue.

On the final night of the Fèis the group visited An Caladh Sona nursing home to play and sing for the residents before heading to a special concert and cèilidh with Dàimh in Melness Hall.

Fèis air an Oir committee member Carol-Anne Farquhar said, 'We were delighted to have been able to offer this unique event to our upcoming young musicians and singers and to welcome Dàimh to Mackay country for the first time. Feedback from the event has been very good and we hope to continue to offer opportunities like this for young people.'

The residential Fèis rounds off a busy year for Fèis air an Oir who have delivered a series of Fèis music days in Melvich as well as co-ordinating the innovative 'Pibrochs and Poppies' heritage project in partnership with Strathnaver Museum. Fèis air an Oir will be back in the New Year with a new series of workshops - you can keep up-to-date with all of Fèis air an Oir's news and events at www.feisean.org.

FÈIS CHATAIBH

Bha Fèis Chataibh trang aig toiseach na Samhna le deireadh-sheachdain ciùil a tharraing 90 neach òg a dh'Àrd-sgoil Ghoillspidh airson oideachadh anns na h-ealain thraidiseanta.

Chùm an fhèis dà thachartas thairis air aon deireadh sheachdain le còrr is trì fichead an làthair airson latha de bhùthan-obrach do chloinn a bha 8 bliadhna a dh'aois agus nas bu shine. Bha an t-uabhas a' dol le fidheall, bogsa-ciùil, feadan, òrain Ghàidhlig, giotàr, clàrsach agus meurchlàr uile air an tairgse. Bha na clasaichean air an roinn a rèir comais, a' dèanamh cinnteach gun robh oideachadh aig ìre iomchaidh don a h-uile duine.

Aig a' cheart àm bha deireadh-sheachdain de dh'obair-còmhlain a' dol do luchd-ciùil aig ìre nas adhartaiche fo stiùir sàr sgioba de luchd-oide, nam measg Charlie McKerron, Marc Clement, Gordon Gunn agus Addie Harper. B' ann thairis air dà latha a chaidh an tachartas seo a chumail is na com-pàirtichean a' faighinn cothrom puirt ionnsachadh agus an dreach fhèin a chur orra le taic bhon sgioba-teagaisg.

Fèis Chataibh had a busy weekend at the start of November with two traditional arts events attracting 90 young people to Golspie High School.

First of all over 60 young people attended a Saturday music day for ages 8 and over. A wide range of workshops were on offer. All abilities were catered for in streamed classes ensuring everyone received tuition at an appropriate level.

Meanwhile a groupwork weekend for more advanced young musicians was also underway. Under the expert guidance of Charlie McKerron, Marc Clement, Gordon Gunn and Addie Harper these Fèis participants spent two days learning and arranging music together.

Saturday night was Halloween and the Fèis held a fancy dress family cèilidh – there were some spooky outfits out on the dancefloor!

You can keep up with all of Fèis Chataibh's news at www.feischataibh.co.uk and you can also find the Fèis on Facebook/FeisChataibh.



FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE 2015

Photo by Neil G Paterson Photography



Chaidh lomaid Chultarail 2015 a chur air dòigh ann an Inbhir Nis anns an Dàmhair le coignear à Alba agus sianar bhon Ionad Oriel ann an Dundalk. Thàinig iad còmhla ann an Inbhir Nis airson trì laithean làn ciùil, Gàidhlig agus ionnsachaidh. Mar as àbhaist, chluich iad aig na Duisean Iomain cho math ris a' ghèama eadar Alba agus Èirinn cuideachd.

Following on from the success of last year's Cultural Exchange between a group of Fèis participants and a group of young Irish musicians from the Oriel Centre in Dundalk, we were delighted to receive funding from Colmcille to continue the project in October this year.

Six fantastic young musicians from Ireland met up with five Fèis participants from different areas of Scotland, in Inverness on the weekend of 23rd to 26th October to work with tutors Colm o' Rua and Deirdre Ni Bhuachalla. During the weekend the group performed at the annual Shinty Awards and the Shinty/Hurling International game which took place at Bught Park, they played an informal session at the Waterfront and they took part in a Gaelic-song workshop with tradition-bearer Rona Lightfoot.

Although the Exchange is focused on music and ties in with the annual Shinty/Hurling series there is a very strong language element to the project. All the young people involved are either Gaelic or Gaelige speakers as well as being very talented musicians and they are encouraged to develop their language skills and learn from each other.

All the participants and tutors worked really hard over the weekend and it was a great success so we are now working towards a visit to Ireland in 2016.

DUAIS NÀISEANTA GA BUILEACHADH AIR BLAS



The annual Blas Festival has been honoured at the Scottish Gaelic Awards ceremony, held in Glasgow recently, after receiving the Bòrd na Gàidhlig "Event Award".

Now in its third year, the awards aim to celebrate the endeavours made by people and organisations in the development of the Gaelic language. The ceremony, run by the Daily Record and sponsored by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, saw an array of organisations and people recognised for their contributions towards the Gaelic language.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig interim CEO, Joe Moore said: "Bòrd na Gàidhlig congratulates Fèis Bhlàs on their recent win at the Scottish Gaelic Awards 2015. The event has grown from strength to strength since its inception and is a great example of how the language walks hand-in-hand with the culture."

Now in its eleventh year, the Blas Festival, which is run by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, has enjoyed year-on-year success, with an ever-growing audience, attracted by the festival's varied and exciting international line-up of traditional musicians. With Gaelic language and culture at the heart of Blas, the award is recognition for the efforts each year to ensure the successful delivery of the expanding festival in collaboration with a wide range of bodies, voluntary and paid.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal CEO, Arthur Cormack, said: "Fèisean nan Gàidheal was delighted to have been shortlisted in four categories at the Gaelic Awards. We have been working in partnership with the Highland Council for over a decade to develop Blas and stage the festival each year. We are very happy to have received this award and would like to thank all the bodies who fund us, the local organisations that promote events in their own localities, High Life Highland who organise the education programme and, especially, Donna Macrae who is contracted to do the vast majority of preparatory work for the festival each year."

Blas Festival 2016 will take place from the 2nd -10th September.

TAIGH AN DUALCHAIS

Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal, ann an com-pàirt ri Fèis na h-Òige is sgoilearan Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, a' leasachadh pròiseact ùr sònraichte.

Bho chionn deich bliadhna, bha taisbeanadh ùr mu dheidhinn beatha is obair Mairead Fay Sheathach ann am prìomh thalla Cùirt an Aodainn le sgoilearan à Sgoil a' Mheadhain (Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis an-diugh). Tràth sa bhliadhna ùir, bidh clann bho Fèis na h-Òige/BSGI a' dol timcheall Taighean Cùraim san sgìre a' seinn is a' còmhradh ris na seann daoine aig a' bheil Gàidhlig.

Bidh Karen Oakley, a ghabh pàirt ann am Fèis na h-Òige is Tàigh Màiri Anndra nuair a bha i na b' òige, gan stiùireadh.



Karen Oakley

TAC AN TEINE

In September a song session was held as part of Fèis nan Òran, which was held in Inverness. A wonderful afternoon of song was enjoyed by a full house in the Glen Mhòr Hotel.

Following the success of this first event, a regular monthly session 'Tac an Teine' has been established.

The session is open to all, with a warm welcome to singers, and those who just wish to listen, to join us on the first Saturday of each month.

Tac an Teine will be held again between 2-4pm on Saturday 2nd January 2016 at the Glen Mhòr Hotel.

TASGADH GRANTS

The second round of applications to the Tasgadh small traditional arts grant fund attracted 22 applications seeking funding of £27,039. 16 grants were approved, totalling £10,829.

Tasgadh is administered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal with funding from Creative Scotland. An independent panel makes decisions on applications.

The remaining deadline for applications in 2015-16 is 19 February 2016, so please ensure you apply if you have an appropriate project. Details are available at feisean.org/tasgadh.

5 LATHA 4-9 GIBLEAN 2016

Thèid an còigeamh 5 Latha a chumail eadar 4mh agus 9mh Giblean aig Na Gearrannan, Eilean Leòdhais. Gheibh suas ri sia-deug com-pàirtiche, aois àrd-sgoile, a tha fileanta sa Ghàidhlig an cothrom còig latha a chur seachad ann an coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig far a bheil obair ann an croitearachd, iasgach agus sa Chlò Hearach mar phàirt mòr de bheatha muinntir na sgìre.

Gach latha, bidh com-pàirtichean a' tadhal air daoine a tha sàr eòlach air an obair aca agus gheibh iad an cothrom ionnsachadh mu na diofar ghniomhan anns a bheil iad an sàs, bho chaoraich aig àm breith nan uan, buain na mòna, ag iasgach aig muir, trusadh maorach gu obair a' Chlò Mhòir bho shnàth gu seacaid.

Bidh com-pàirtichean cuideachd ag ionnsachadh beagan mu bhith a' còcaireachd biadh traidiseanta de dhiofar sheòrsachan, le taic agus comhairle bho dhaoine sa choimhearsnachd. Ged nach fheum comas ciùil a bhith aig com-pàirtichean airson 5 Latha a fhrithealadh, bidh sinn a' tabhann chothroman sònraichte ceòl is òrain ionnsachadh bho shàr luchd-ciùil na Gàidhlig cuideachd.

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh agus foirm iarrtais thoir sùil air www.feisean.org/5latha no cuiribh fios gu Calum MacMhaoilein air 01463 225559 no calum@feisean.org

The fifth 5 Latha (5 Days) will be held at the Gearrannan Blackhouses, Isle of Lewis between 4 and 9 April 2016. Up to sixteen Gaelic-speaking participants of high school age will have the opportunity to spend five days in a community where Gaelic is used naturally and in which crofting, fishing and the Harris Tweed industry play an important part in the lives of its residents.

TAISBEANIDHEAN AIG A' MHÒD NAISEANTA RÌOGHAIL

Aig toiseach an Dàmhair, bha Fèisean nan Gàidheal toilichte pàirt a ghabhail sa Mhòd Naiseanta Rìoghail anns an Òban. Thairis air ceithir latha, bha Oifigear Margaidheachd agus Foillseachaidh Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Rowan NicPhàdraig, an sàs anns na taisbeanaidhean poblach a chaidh a chumail aig Tallaichean a' Chorrainn, far an robh measgachadh de bhuidhnean Gàidhlig (agus eile) stèidhichte tron t-seachdain.

Thug na taisbeanaidhean seo cothrom don t-sluagh bruidhinn ri buidhnean agus fiosrachadh fhaighinn mu na seirbheisean agus cur-seachadan anns a bheil iad an sàs.

Thuir an t-Oifigear Margaidheachd, Rowan NicPhàdraig, "Chòrd an t-seachdain rium gu mòr. Bha e fìor mhath bruidhinn ri daoine mu na seirbheisean agus sgeamaichean a tha sinn a' tabhann aig Fèisean nan Gàidheal. 'S e an rud as fheàrr mun Mhòd, gu bheil daoine tighinn bho air feadh an t-saoghail gus faicinn de th' ann - 's mar sin, bha cothrom agam innse don t-sluagh a bha an làthair mu obair Fèisean nan Gàidheal."

FNG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

The Annual General Meeting of Fèisean nan Gàidheal took place on Friday 25 September in the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula, with over 80 delegates and guests in attendance. The AGM was followed by a Dinner and Cèilidh in the hotel, with music from Fèis Tìr an Eòrna agus Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain.

The organisation's Conference took place on Saturday 26 September. Rachael McCormack, Strengthening Communities Director, Highlands and Islands Enterprise was our special guest on Saturday. There was lots of practical information to pass on to Fèis organisers with the launch of a Fèis Resource Pack and the Gaelic Song Project, Fuaran. Other topics covered included Early Years and Gaelic for Committees.

Stacey Toner discussed progress with the Highland Youth Arts Hub and Mairi MacInnes gave an update on future plans for Ceòlas.



THANKS TO RAE MACEACHERN



Dh'fhàg Fèisean nan Gàidheal soraigh slàn bho chionn greis aig neach a tha air a bhith ag obair còmhla rinn airson 13 bliadhna a' leasachadh ceòl anns na sgoiltean.

When Rae MacEachern took early retirement as the Head Teacher of Kyleakin Primary School in Skye, she was the obvious choice to co-ordinate work that Fèisean nan Gàidheal had been asked to deliver as part of the, then new, Youth Music Initiative.

Being a former Head Teacher, Rae fully understood how schools work and the pressures that exist when it comes to timetabling new activities. She brought considerable skill to the role of YMI Coordinator, and her professionalism was vital in formalising the work Fèis tutors deliver in schools. She brought a clear vision as to how the task of providing high-quality musical experiences in all primary schools across such a vast geographical area could be achieved. In addition to the dedication of the tutors, Rae's ability to motivate, and keep motivated, the area providers has been key to making the YMI Traditional programme such a success.

Our thanks to Rae for all that she contributed and we wish her a long (and long-awaited!) happy retirement, in the hope that Iain will take her away across the world at least twice a year!

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